(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the implication of such increasing gap on the economy; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The gap between the retention price c.i.e. the cost of production plus the return on networth as assessed by the Government for individual units) of the controlled fertilizers and the statutorily notified sale price is paid by the Government as subsidy. While in the case of individual plants there are instances of reduction in this gap, on overall basis the gap is on the increase because of increased cost of production and non-adjustment in full of these increases in the sale price to the farmers.

To contain the mounting subsidy bill, all phosphatic and potassic fertilizers were decontrolled w.e.f. 25.8.1992. Further, the price of urea was increased by 91 per cent w.e.f. 10.6.1994 and simultaneously low analysis nitrogenous fertilizers were removed from the price control.

Subsidy on Imported Urea

2885. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is likely to be a shortfall in due payment of subsidy on imported Urea in 1994-95;

(b) if so, the estimated amount thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which the shortfall is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALERO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Payment of Commission to Bulk purchasers by NFL

2886. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the system of payment of commission to bulk purchasers and dealers being practised in the NFL;

(b) the total amount of commission paid by NFL to the bulk purchasers and dealers separately during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) the norms followed by the individuals/firms among the bulk purchasers together with the commission paid to each of them in the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively;

(d) the functions of the bulk purchasers and the criteria for fixing their commission; and

(e) whether the category of bulk purchasers exists in the other Government owned/cooperative sector fertiliser companies in the country, if so, the norms of the other companies practising this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) to (e) Information is being collected.

Gap between demand and supply of fertilizers

2887. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between demand and supply of fertilizers in the country;

(b) the reason for the gap;

(c) the installed capacity of fertilizer industry in public, private and cooperative sectors;